

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3, 12 and 19 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 5, 7, 11, 14 and 18 have been canceled to facilitate prosecution of this patent application without prejudice.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, Claim 5 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 2, 5, 7, 11, 14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koza et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,738). Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, Claims 2, 5, 7, 11, 14 and 18 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office has indicated that Claims 3, 12 and 19 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims” (Office Action, Page 7). Applicant has rewritten these claims in accordance with the Patent Office’s instruction, and has also corrected formal matters. Thus, Claims 3, 12 and 19 should be allowed.

Applicant understood that the reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter given by the Patent Office at Page 7 of Office Action were made in accordance with the following instruction per MPEP § 1302.14:

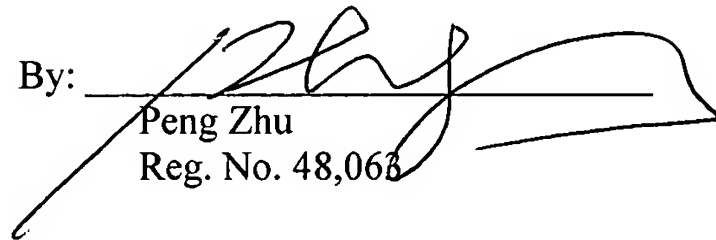
“The statement is not intended to necessarily state all the reasons for allowance or all the details why claims are allowed and should not be written to specifically or impliedly state that all the reasons for allowance are set forth.”

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in the case.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
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